was made for part acquisition which has so far not been agreetd to by the Land Acquisition Authority.

Amendment of Indian Postal Services Act

1992. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has recently recommended to Government the amendment of the Indian Postal Act of 1898;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a bid by the Department of Posts to place crippling constraints on operators of private express services which have grown into a major Rs. 350 crore infrastructural industry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that such a move would practically wipe out the Courier industry in the country: and

(f) if not, the reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Indian Post Office Act 1898 has been reviewed by a committee constituted by the Government. Any new Act to replace the existing Act can be done only after the Government decides on the recommendations of the Committee.

(b) The need of amendment has arisen in the context of the developments which have taken place nationally as well as internationlly since the present Act came into force.

(c) No Sir. At present private express services have no legal authority to carry letters. According to the recommendations of the Committee to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the exclusive privilege of the Government to carry letters may be liberalised to enable private express services to carry letters within certain parameters to be laid down by the Government.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.

Provision of new telephones in the capital

1993. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide over four lakh new telephone connections in the capital in the coming financial year: if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that waiting lists maintained for telephone connections will also be clear during the same financial year; and

(c) if so, what are the details in the regard and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tentative plans have been drawn to provide 4 lakh new telephone connections. in Delhi in the coming financial year. This will make OYT and Special category waiting list current in 1994 and easy availability of General category telephones in 1995. This is however subject to timely availability of equipment, financial and other resources.

Improvement of Telecommunication Services in Madhya Pradesh

1994. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to improve the Telephone, Posts and Telegraph services in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the revenue earned by Government from the State Government during 1991-92 and 1992-93 has been higher in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, how much amount was spent on these services during the above period in the State;

(d) to what extent the posts, telegraph and telephone services will be improved during 1993-94;

(e) whether all the villages will be provided all the three services; and

(f) if not, by when all the villages in Madhya Pradesh will be provided the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): Telephones & Telegraph Services (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The comparative figures in respect of revenue earned for all the States/ Telecom Circle are given in enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) The amount spent on Telephone and Telegraph services in Madhya Pradesh for improvement of the same is Rs. 67.70 crores for 1991-92 and Rs. 81.49 crores for 1992-93

(d) During 1993-94, it is proposed to provide 95000 new telephone connections and increase the capacity by 1,46,000 lines. It is also proposed to provide telephones facilities to 6000 Gram Panchayat villages.

(e) No Sir.

(f) All the Gram Panchayat Villages are likely to be provided telephone service facility by March, 1995.

Relay for Postal Wing

(a) Improvement of postal services through expansion of the existing postal network of EDBOs and DSOs, through construction of departmental buildings and through the progressive computerisation of certain branches of the post offices such as the Counter Services. PLI branch etc. are being progressively undertaken by the Department.

(b) the Department does not earn revenue from the State Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) In 1993-94, the existing postal network has been enhanced by opening 30 EDBOs and 5 DSOs as on 31-1-1994.

(e) and (f) The Government policy is to progressively provide post offices in all Gram Panchayats which fulfil the departmental norms, regarding income, population and distance, subject to allocation of funds and availability of targets. Hence no time frame can be indicated in this regard.

Statement

Statement showing circle-wise revenue receipts during 1991-92 *and* 1992-93

(Rupees in crores)

S. No	Name of Circle	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	305.72	403.95
2.	Assam	35.74	50.71
3.	Bihar	85.50	116.11
4.	Gujarat	372.47	455.83
5.	Haryana	67.88	93.45
6.	Himachal Pradesh	18.34	22.29
7.	J & K	17.67	23.11
8.	Karnataka	316.98	396.48
9.	Kerala	169.65	249.20
10	Madhya Pradesh	163.66	213.95

1	2	3	4
11.	Maharashtra	319.13	402.43
12.	North-East	22.09	25.80
13.	Orissa	52.51	60.64
14.	Punjab	172.30	235.50
15.	Rajasthan	134.07	184.11
16.	Tamil Nadu	237.56	301.68
17.	U.P.	227.55	384.11
18.	West Bengal	44.07	48.97

Agreement with AT & T for Telecom Products

1995. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has recently been signed between AT & T, one of the World's largest Telecommunication Companies and Bharat Telecom, to assemble and market a range of telecom consumer products in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Government has not received any proposal from AT & T or M/s. Bharat Telecom for assembling and marketing any range of consumer telecom products in India.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Survey about working hours of Rural Telephones

1996. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rural telephones to those in urban areas and their actual numbers;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the working hours of rural telephones in a year in comparison to that of urban telephones and the charges paid by the rural telephone subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such survey would be conducted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House later.

(b) The Govt. has not done any specific survey in this regard. Both urban and rural telephones work round the clock. However, the usual working hours at places chosen for providing public rural telephones are as follows:

(i) Post offices: 5 hours on the average.

(ii) Panchayat HQ: Approximately 8 hours.

(iii) Grocer's Shop Approximately 12 hours.

(iv) Franchise: More than 12 hours.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.